

1 AN ACT relating to student mental health assessments and making an appropriation
2 therefor.

3 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

4 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
5 READ AS FOLLOWS:

6 *(1) To assist public schools in meeting the needs of students and implementing KRS*
7 *158.4416, each local school district shall utilize a mental health assessment as*
8 *needed for determining the behavioral health status of students.*

9 *(2) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each school district shall contract*
10 *with a student mental health assessment provider to furnish a comprehensive*
11 *behavioral health tool designed to help identify and prioritize needed services and*
12 *supports for students. Each school district shall select an assessment that is time*
13 *efficient and cost effective and will help schools identify at-risk students,*
14 *determine appropriate interventions, and provide ongoing monitoring.*

15 *(3) Funds appropriated by the General Assembly to the Kentucky Department of*
16 *Education for the purposes of this section shall be distributed annually to each*
17 *school district for the cost of the mental health assessment contract, except that*
18 *the department shall determine a maximum disbursement amount based on the*
19 *number of students in a district and the current market rate for student mental*
20 *health assessments.*

21 *(4) School mental health assessments shall be administered in accordance with 20*
22 *U.S.C. sec. 1232h, including requiring prior written consent of the parent or the*
23 *student if he or she is at least eighteen (18) years old or legally emancipated.*

24 ➔Section 2. There is hereby appropriated to the Kentucky Department of
25 Education from the General Fund \$4,000,000 in each fiscal year of the 2020-2022 fiscal
26 biennium for the procurement of student mental health assessments by local school
27 districts.